the country especially in the vulnerable areas of the land borders as also at the international airports has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned which operate in the border areas in the detection and prevention of smuggling. Sophisticated equipment like : X-ray Baggage Machines, Metal Detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly used. Administrative re-creanisatin has been undertaken 1o Strengthen the anti-smuggling effort on the Indo-Pak border and the creation of two preventive sub-collectorates with Head Quarters at Jodhpur and Amritsar respectively has been sanctioned.

Amendment of the Central Sales Tax Act

*55 SHRI SURESH KAL-MADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the State Governments of the Northern Region for amending the Central Sales Tax Act so as to cover the Consignment tax also ;

(b) if so, what are the detail thereof ; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Chief Ministers Conference held on 9th and 10th February, 1989, it was resolved by consensus that a separates bill for levy of consignment tax be introduced in the Parliament in **the** Monsoon Session this year.

Bomb blast at New **Delhi Railway Station**

*56. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently there was an incident of bomb blast at the New Delhi Railway Station resulting in some deaths and injuries ; if so, what are the details thereof ;

(b) whether it was the handiwork of Punjab terrorists and whether Government had any prior information about the possibility of such an incident ; if so, what preventive measures were taken by Government in this regard ;

(c) whether the culprits have since been apprehended ; if so. what are the details thereof ;

(d) what steps have been taken to gear up security measures at the New Delhi and other Railway Stations to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future ; and

(e) whether any *ex-gratia* payment has been made to the affected families ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (e) A powerful explosion took place at the New Delhi Railway Station on 12-6-1989. 10 persons were killed and 55 persons were injured. 3 persons viz. (i) Manjit Singh of New Delhi, (if) Nishan Singh of Amritsar and (iii) Dalbir Singh of Amritsar involved in this case were apprehended. The case has also since been challaned by the Delhi Police. It is correct that it was the handiwork of Punjab Terrorists. However, no speci fic information about this incident was available. Ex-gratia pay-ments were made to the concerned